

MAY 25 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re to the Application of: Peter W. BRINGMANN et al. Serial No.: 10/005,646 Filed: 7 December 2001 Title: NOVEL FIBROBLAST GROWTH FACTORS Docket No.: 51835AUSM1	Examiner: Christine J. Saoud Group Art Unit: 1647
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed 12 November 2005, in the above-referenced application. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the following remarks, and attachments included herewith, responsive to this Office Action.

A request for a three-month extension of time for responding to the Office Action is included herewith, making the due date for responding to the Office Action 25 May 2006.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response to Deposit Account No. 02-2117.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 36-41 and 69 are pending in the application. For the Examiner's reference, a clean copy of the claims is included in the attached Appendix, including the claim number and identifier for each claim.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 36-41 and 69 are presently rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Webster et al. in view of Nakamura et al. pursuant to 35 USC § 103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and provide the following remarks and attached Declaration of Dr. Branka Mitrovic (a named inventor in the present application and expert in the field), in support of Applicants' assertion that in view of the combined teachings of Webster et al. and Nakamura et al., it would not have been prima facie obvious to use FGF-9 for the treatment of MS.

The Examiner asserts that Webster et al. teach that growth factors, including FGFs, are involved in the proliferation, differentiation and survival of cells of the oligodendroglial